An International Congress on Mental Health

August 12th—21st

1948

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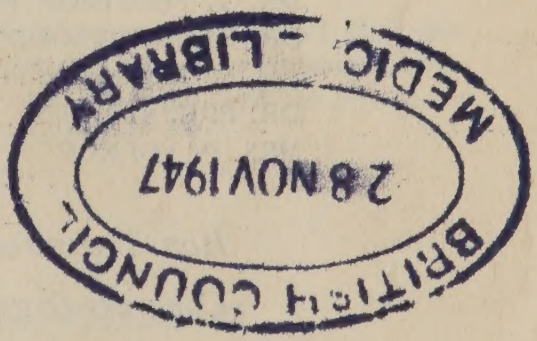

TO BE HELD AT CENTRAL HALL
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.1

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DR. A. HELEN BOYLE
DR. GERALD CAPLAN, Secretary General, International Committee for Child Psychiatry
PROFESSOR H. V. DICKS
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PROFESSOR J. C. FLUGEL, *Chairman, Programme Committee*
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DR. KENNETH SODDY, Medical Director, National Association for Mental Health
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MRS. P. VOLKOV

Hon. Treasurer: SIR OTTO NIEMEYER, *G.C.B., K.B.E.*

Congress Organiser: MICHAEL HARVARD

Congress Secretary: MISS M. DE VERE HUNT

The accompanying application form and all requests for information about the Congress should be sent as soon as possible to:—

The Organiser,
International Congress on Mental Health,
39 Queen Anne Street,
London, W.1,
England

22503517646

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An International Congress on Mental Health

will be held from August 12th to 21st consisting of the following three conferences

MORNING SESSIONS

August 12th–15th, 1948 **International Conference on Child Psychiatry** *under the auspices of the International Committee for Child Psychiatry.*

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

August 12th–15th, 1948 **International Conference on Medical Psychotherapy** *under the auspices of the International Federation for Medical Psychotherapy.*

MORNINGS AND AFTERNOONS

August 16th–21st, 1948 **International Conference on Mental Hygiene** *under the auspices of the International Committee for Mental Hygiene with its incorporated and allied bodies.*

SESSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT

CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.1

The organisation of the Congress is being undertaken by

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

"HEALTH is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

* * *

"The health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent upon the fullest co-operation of individuals and States.

"The achievement of any State in the promotion and protection of health is of value to all.

* * *

"Healthy development of the child is of basic importance; the ability to live harmoniously in a changing total environment is essential to such development.

"The extension to all peoples of the benefits of medical, psychological and related knowledge is essential to the fullest attainment of health.

"Informed opinion and active co-operation on the part of the public are of the utmost importance in the improvement of the health of the people."

Extract from the Declaration in the draft Constitution of the WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION *of the United Nations of "principles which are basic to the happiness, harmonious relations and security of all peoples" drawn up at the International Health Conference held in New York 19th June–22nd July, 1946, and attended by representatives of 51 States.*

IN NEARLY EVERY COUNTRY of the world there have been serious sectional and social stresses in recent years. The crisis preceding, and the social and economic insecurity accompanying the war of 1939–45 gave rise to social situations hitherto almost unthought of, and disturbed all normal peace-time development in our various countries. Children and adults alike suffered in consequence of the many tragic situations that were created, some far more seriously than others.

In the present post-war period all of us are conscious of the aftermath of these very disturbed years. Events seem at times to present a menace rather than a promise of peace. We are increasingly brought up against the multitude of complex human factors that are involved in this disruptive era. The major problems of mental ill-health in individuals, groups, and nations, are still unsolved. They cry out for study and for co-operative action.

Resocialisation and reconstruction are urgent, and this is largely a problem in which human relations and considerations of mental health are predominant. All workers in the field of mental health, psychiatrists, psychologists, sociologists, clergy, teachers, anthropologists, are confronted to-day by issues such as they never faced before.

Without their help it will be hard for the principles laid down by the World Health Organisation to lead to action. This is why the Congress is being held.

By the treatment and management of individual problems of children and adults we accomplish much and, what is possibly more important, we discover with increasing clarity how to prevent such problems arising. We should apply this experience to the solution of group, national, and international problems.

We have something to say. There must be action to be proposed and taken.

The general theme of the Congress will therefore be the psychological tasks involved in preparing the way for individuals to become Citizens of the World.

Our collective experience and vision can make a contribution to the health and maturity of all peoples.

1. WHAT DOES THE CONGRESS COMPRISE?

The two Conferences of professional groups—The International Committee for Child Psychiatry and the International Federation for Medical Psychotherapy—will meet on

August 12th–15th, 1948

and are to deal with psychiatric problems. Their membership is limited to those who are medically and technically qualified, and recognised non-medical psychotherapists nominated as Associates by national groups.

The Conference on Mental Hygiene—August 16th–21st, 1948, is open to members of all mental hygiene organisations and any other bodies whose interests are in any way related to this field, and will include, for instance, psychiatrists, psychologists, sociologists, clergy, teachers, anthropologists, and those associated with public administration. In the case of individuals who wish to attend, but who are not members of any of these bodies, the Organisers of the Congress would like to be informed of their specific interests.

Public meetings will be held in addition, and will be open to those who are not actually members of any of the Conferences.

It will naturally be of very great help to the Organisers of the Congress if they can obtain, even at this date, an approximate estimate of the number of those who hope to come. If you hope to attend, therefore, will you please fill in and despatch as soon as possible, the enclosed form of application for further information. This will not be regarded as a pledge on your part to attend the Congress, but it will assist the Organisers in making the necessary arrangements and in keeping you informed of later developments.

2. CONGRESS FEES

At this early date it is impossible to fix the exact amount of the Congress fees because no estimate can yet be made of its size, but as far as can be seen at present the fees will be *approximately* as follows:—

August 12th–15th:	International Conference on Child Psychiatry	£2
August 12th–15th:	International Conference on Medical Psychotherapy	£2
August 16th–21st:	International Conference on Mental Hygiene	£4
August 12th–21st:	**Inclusive Fee for the whole Congress**	£6

In cases where it is clear that exchange difficulties might prevent a national delegation from attending, lower fees may be arranged for those attending from that country.

It may be possible to attend single meetings of the various sections of the Congress at smaller fees to be announced later.

3. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Thos. Cook & Son, Ltd., through their travel agencies in every country, will act as booking agents. It is hoped that sufficient hotel accommodation of all grades will be available by the time of the Congress. University hostel accommodation will probably be arranged also for those who prefer it, and there may also be private hospitality available for those delegates whose attendance might otherwise be prevented owing to currency regulations. The difficulties of obtaining foreign currency in most countries of the world are fully appreciated by the Congress Organisers, and they would therefore welcome any information setting out these difficulties in order that they may overcome them.

Every attempt will be made to gain the co-operation and support of international bodies interested in the promotion of international cultural relations.

4. Social events and visits of interest will be arranged in addition to the scientific programme.

5. The Organisers hope to arrange concurrently with the Congress an Exhibition to include books, journals, relevant literature and other exhibition material, and also cinema shows. For this they will need the help of every participating country. They would, therefore, welcome suggestions as soon as possible on the scope and content of exhibitions which might be held concurrently with the Congress.

6. Finally, it must be mentioned that the Organisers start without financial resources, and the collection of funds will be one of their first tasks. Later on they will be getting into touch with organisations in all countries throughout the world with a view to obtaining their financial help.

7. THE WORK OF THE CONGRESS

The official spoken languages of the Congress will, it is hoped, be English and French, and, if funds permit, interpreters will be provided for other languages. National delegations unfamiliar with English and French are advised to include a member capable of acting as interpreter.

If it proves possible to translate the scientific papers into such languages as are necessary, and to print them in advance, they will be circulated. In this case speakers will briefly open the general discussion on their papers.

The Conferences may divide into smaller discussion groups for the detailed work, the results of which would be brought before the main Meetings by the Rapporteur of each group.

8. PREPARATORY COMMISSIONS

To ensure results at the Mental Hygiene Conference, technical groups, or "commissions", are being appointed in Great Britain to be responsible for each day's special topic. They are beginning their work of preliminary discussion now, and will continue up to the time of the Congress. All material or suggestions received from any source will be passed to the relevant commission for information and digestion. This co-ordination should be of great help to the Programme Committee in their exceedingly difficult task of drafting the final programme and deciding how best to allot the very limited number of papers which can usefully be presented in the time.

It is urged that in every country a similar series of commissions (or even several such series) should be set to work discussing these topics fully. The material they send in advance, or, in the case of recent data, bring with them, will ensure the success of the Conferences. By such preparatory work it is hoped to make the personal interchange of the Conference discussions more productive.

All groups meeting for this purpose, of which we are notified, will be kept informed of the general progress of discussions by the main commissions in this and other countries.

9. TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

The Organisers will welcome suggestions for the improvement and the amplification of the programme. It will of course not be possible always to adopt such suggestions.

Alongside each day's main topic there are listed a few of the many sub-headings already suggested for discussion.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD PSYCHIATRY

Under the auspices of The International Committee for Child Psychiatry

Theme: Foundations of Mental Health in Childhood

DAY	MAIN TOPIC	SUBSIDIARY TOPICS
Aug. 12th Morning	Personality Disorders of Childhood in relation to Cultural Patterns and Family Background.	Race, Culture and Society. Family Life. Psychotherapy for Children.
Aug. 13th Morning	The Child Psychiatrist and Education Problems.	Handicaps: (*a*) Somatic (*b*) Affective (*c*) Cognitive and their Inter-relations. Selection and Guidance for Life Work.
Aug. 14th Morning	Security and Freedom in relation to Social Adjustments.	Economic and Environmental factors. Psychiatry and the Law. Group Sentiments.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MEDICAL PSYCHOTHERAPY

Under the auspices of The International Federation for Medical Psychotherapy

Theme: Guilt

DAY	MAIN TOPIC	SUBSIDIARY TOPICS
Aug. 12th Afternoon	The Genesis of Guilt.	(1) The Freudian view. (2) The Jungian view (3) The Philosophical view. (4) The Religious view.
Aug. 13th Afternoon	Guilt and the Dynamics of Psychological Disorder in the Individual.	(1) The relation of guilt to anxiety. (2) Guilt and Reparation. (3) The methods of dealing with Guilt in the Individual.
Aug. 14th Afternoon	Collective Guilt.	(1) Anthropological and political approaches. (2) Psychological and religious solutions.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HYGIENE

Under the auspices of The International Committee for Mental Hygiene with its incorporated and allied bodies

Theme: Mental Health and World Citizenship

	MAIN TOPIC	SUBSIDIARY TOPICS
Aug. 16th	Problems of World Citizenship and good Group Relationships.	Socio-psychological criteria of a good Society. Patriotism and wider group sentiments. Ascertainment of Public Opinion and means of disseminating information.
Aug. 17th	The Individual and Society.	War-time experience. Economic Security. Cultural Clashes and Fascist Infection.
Aug. 18th	Family Problems and Psychological Disturbance.	Social Development of the Child. Marital and Family Maladjustment. Social Anxiety and Fertility.
Aug. 19th	Planning for Mental Health; Organisation, Training, Propaganda.	Official and Voluntary Organisations. The Mental Health 'Team' and training for each aspect of the work. Public Relations and Mental Health.
Aug. 20th	Mental Health in Industry and Industrial Relations.	Human Relations, Morale, Incentives, Vocational Guidance and placement. Industries especially liable to morale problems.
Aug. 21st	Practical Conclusions and Recommendations.	

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10. SPECIALISED TECHNICAL MEETINGS

In the afternoons during the Congress on Mental Health there will be technical Meetings arranged at appropriate Institutions for discussions of professional problems by:—

Psychiatrists
Psychologists
Social Workers
Social Scientists
Educationalists
Administrators
Non-professional workers in Mental Health

If you are interested in this Congress and if you hope to attend, will you please complete the form enclosed in this brochure. The Organisers realise that no one can commit himself at this stage, but it is essential for them to have, as early as possible, an approximate idea of how many will be attending. If, therefore, you wish the Organisers to send you further information concerning the Congress and hope to be able to attend yourself, *it is important to complete* and send in the form immediately.

The accompanying application form and all requests for information about the Congress should be sent as soon as possible to:—

The Organiser,
International Congress on Mental Health,
39 Queen Anne Street,
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England

March, 1947 Lund Humphries 3·47